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Application No. 10/628,738
Amendment dated September 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 5, 2006**REMARKS**

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed June 5, 2006 in connection with the above-identified patent application. In that action, the Examiner states that Group I was elected without traverse. Claims 1-9 and 15 – 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and claims 10 – 14 are withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that the election of Group I in the reply filed on 3/15/2006 was with traverse. The current Office Action incorrectly states that Applicants elected Group I without traverse.

THE ART REJECTIONS

Independent claims 1, 15 and 24 (and their respective dependent claims) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by *Waldo et al* (US Patent No. 6,016,500) in view of *Kolodner et al* (US Patent No. 6,675,379).

Claims 1 and 24 are in Condition for Allowance

The Examiner states that *Waldo* discloses all the limitations of independent claims 1 and 24 except the step of identifying one or more external resource references and releasing external resource references – which, according to the Examiner are disclosed by *Kolodner*.

Applicants respectfully disagree. *Waldo* describes a system for using leases that are exchanged between servers and their respective clients to manage system resources. Regarding object references, the system described in *Waldo* relies on granted lease periods to determine if particular resources are in use (column 8, lines 27-35, *Waldo*). For example, as described in *Waldo*, garbage collection requires the analysis of leases to determine the status of references (column 8, lines 20-35).

To further clarify aspects of the invention, however, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 24. Specifically, the amendments are related to accessing an object, traversing an associated object graph, and releasing resources by a set of rules for the particular object. Applicants submit that neither *Waldo* nor *Kolodner*, alone or in combination, teach or suggest accessing an object of the user session and traversing an object graph, identifying one or more external resource references of said object, releasing

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said one or more external resource references by a set of rules for said object, and repeating the accessing, identifying, and releasing for each object of the user session, as recited in amended claims 1 and 24.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 24 and claims 2 – 9 and 25 – 32 dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 is in Condition for Allowance

Applicants have amended claim 15 to further clarify aspects of this invention by adding limitations related to object graphs. Applicants submit that *Waldo* and *Kolodner*, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest an object graph defining an interrelationship between objects of a user session, a resource deallocation module linked to the software program to deallocate allocated external resources of each object of a user session responsive to an impending termination of said user session, and an automatic memory management module invoked subsequent to the deallocation performed by the resource deallocation module, as recited in claim 15. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 15, and its dependent claims 16 – 23, are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments, comments, and arguments presented, applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentably distinct and unobvious over the art of record.

Allowance of all pending claims and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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